

MAR 13 2015

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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STRONGLY URGING SUPPORT FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF LAWS  
PROHIBITING ANIMAL CRUELTY.

1 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of animals is a reflection of  
2 society; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the State has an interest in protecting the  
5 welfare of dogs and cats from cruelty and exploitation, as well  
6 as protecting Hawaii's consumers from less-than-reputable pet  
7 dealers; and  
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9 WHEREAS, each legislative session, citizens come forward to  
10 seek the introduction of legislation prohibiting acts of cruelty  
11 and neglect toward animals to address situations that have  
12 arisen in their communities; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the growing concerns signify the need for stronger  
15 laws against animal abuse; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the Legislature has offered solutions through the  
18 introduction of legislation proposing stronger protections  
19 against animal cruelty as well as increased penalties for  
20 violators of animal cruelty laws; and  
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22 WHEREAS, one example of such legislation is S.B. No. 1301  
23 ("Hope's Law"), introduced during the Regular Session of 2015,  
24 which:  
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26 (1) Requires dog license holders to notify the Director of  
27 Finance of transfer of the dog or be held liable  
28 following the transfer for any acts of animal cruelty;  
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30 (2) Requires dog license holders to provide the Director  
31 of Finance with the dog's microchip identification;  
32 and  
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- 1 (3) Deems depriving a dog of necessary sustenance as  
2 cruelty to animals in the second degree; and  
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4 WHEREAS, despite the enactment of several animal cruelty  
5 offenses, local humane societies, law enforcement agencies, and  
6 animal protection groups continue to receive alarming reports of  
7 acts of cruelty to animals; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the introduction of legislation prohibiting and  
10 penalizing particularly alarming acts of animal cruelty is  
11 intended to curb animal abuse and cruelty; and  
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13 WHEREAS, one example of such legislation is S.B. No. 773,  
14 introduced during the Regular Session of 2015, which:  
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- 16 (1) Prohibits the slaughtering or trafficking of dogs or  
17 cats or possessing of dog or cat products for human  
18 consumption; and  
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- 20 (2) Amends the relevant portion of the definition of "pet  
21 animal" as used in chapter 711, Hawaii Revised  
22 Statutes, to mean any dog or cat, regardless of  
23 whether the dog or cat was bred for consumption; and  
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25 WHEREAS, the absence of comprehensive laws prohibiting  
26 animal cruelty complicates the process of finding and holding an  
27 individual responsible in cases of abuse toward animals; now,  
28 therefore,  
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
32 House of Representatives concurring, that this body is urged to  
33 strongly support the strengthening of laws prohibiting animal  
34 cruelty; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President  
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# S.C.R. NO. 170

1 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Director  
2 of Health, and Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

